

# Not all pasture mixes are equal

The following quick guide is to help compare pasture mixes when selling pasture seed.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

## WHERE TO GO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### Is it the same species?

- What components are in the pasture mix?
- Other grasses, such as Timothy and cocksfoot, are sown at lighter rates than ryegrass which can make these pasture mixes appear cheaper.
- Is the mix fit for purpose?

### Are they the same type?

- If a ryegrass pasture mix, is it the same type - for example is it perennial, flowering date, ploidy, type etc?
- For clovers, check they are the same species and type. For example, to determine if a small, medium or large leaved white clover is required, consider the grazing system and stock class.

### Is it a recognised cultivar?

- Are all the cultivars in the pasture mix from a recognised New Zealand based seed company?
- Are all of the components of the mix proprietary seed or are some cheaper common seeds?
- Can each component of the mix be supported by documentation, e.g. Is it certified seed, P & G certificates?
- Are each of the components in the pasture mix supported by trial data, especially independent sources of information such as DairyNZ?

### Sowing rates

- Is the pricing per kg, per hectare or per bag?
- Are the sowing rates of each of the cultivar components of the mix shown and do they match with what they are being offered?
- Tetraploid ryegrasses are sown heavier (40%), so need to check sowing rates are equivalent per hectare to diploids.
- The seed treatment and cultivar used can have an effect on sowing rate and will need to be adjusted accordingly.

### Endophyte status

- Novel endophytes are available in ryegrass and tall fescue.
- AR37 in ryegrass and MaxP<sup>®</sup> in tall fescue are the premium novel endophytes for insect tolerance.
- ARI and other novel endophytes are available and will be cheaper than AR37 and MaxP<sup>®</sup> endophytes, but will offer less insect protection against certain pests.
- Nil or low endophyte will offer limited insect protection; if endophyte status is not mentioned in a quote assume it is low endophyte.

### Seed treatments

- Superstrike<sup>®</sup> is recommended for seedling protection for grasses, clovers and herbs.
- Other seed treatments are available but may not afford the same level of protection.
- If no seed treatment is mentioned in a quote, then assume that this is bare seed and has no protection.

### Information

Pasture guides and websites from PGG Wrightson Seeds

DairyNZ Forage Value Index (FVI)

### Contacts

Local regional staff - TFR's

PGG Wrightson Seeds team representatives